

U.S. Application No. 09/744,362
Reply to Office Action dated June 30, 2005

PATENT
450104-02511

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendment and remarks. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-68 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, 10, 14, 25, 32, 34, 37, 47, 54, 56, and 59 are independent. Claims 1-34, 37, 39-45, 47-56, and 59 are hereby amended. Support for this Amendment is provided at least at pages 47 and 48 of the Specification, as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,883,621 to Iwamura (hereinafter, merely "Iwamura")¹.

¹ Applicants respectfully submit that Iwamura is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) because Iwamura (issued March 16, 1999) was not issued more than one year prior to the date of application of the instant invention (foreign priority dates March 24, 1999, September 14, 1999, and December 3, 1999). Applicants respectfully submit that rejection should be applied under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) instead.

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Claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*:

A transmission method

wherein the stored connection information has a hierarchical structure, and

wherein the stored connection information contains a unit identifier descriptor representing all data, a source descriptor representing a list of transmission sources, a destination descriptor representing a list of receivers, and a transformation descriptor representing a list of signal conversions. (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Iwamura relates to a topology map for a digital system that indicates the various components that make up the system. The topology map is generated and displayed on a display device in the form of a GUI. The various components are indicated using icons each of which represents a respective one of the components and a user specifies a source device and a receive device by manipulating the corresponding icons so as to cause a data transfer between the source device and the receive device. (See Abstract)

Applicants respectfully submit that Iwamura fails to disclose or suggest that "the connection information has a hierarchical structure, wherein the stored connection information contains a unit identifier descriptor representing all data, a source descriptor representing a list of transmission sources, a destination descriptor representing a list of receivers, and a transformation descriptor representing a list of signal conversions," as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable.

Amended independent claims 8, 10, 14, 25, 32, 34, 37, 47, 54, 56, and 59 are similar, or somewhat similar, in scope to claim 1 and are patentable for similar, or somewhat similar, reasons.

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III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the above-identified reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

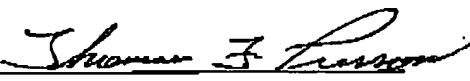
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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